

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03113 081559Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1737
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3113

EXDIS -- DIST AS NODIS

LONDON FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, JO, XF, IS, US, EG
SUBJECT: SADAT'S PAPER ON WEST BANK/GAZA

REF: A) JERUSALEM 664/USDEL NO. 72; B) JERUSALEM 663/USDEL NO. 71

1. WITH RESPECT TO SADAT'S COMMENT TO ATHERTON CONCERNING THE PAPER HE HANDED US ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, IT SHOULD GO DOWN IN SOME DIPLOMATIC ANNALS AS THE STATEMENT OF THE YEAR* ANY SETTLEMENT BASED ON THAT PAPER COULD HARDLY BE CRITICIZED BY ANY ARAB, ANYWHERE--EXCEPT I SUPPOSE THE IRAQIS AND THE LIBYANS. BUT THE FACT THAT THE EGYPTIANS GIVE IT TO US AT THIS STAGE AS THEIR POSITION UNDERSCORES THE BREADTH OF THE GAP. I REALIZE THAT ROY ATHERTON AND HIS COLLEAGUES DO NOT ATTACH TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS PAPER AND REGARD IT MERELY AS THE TRADITIONAL EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY POSITION. I HOPE THEY ARE RIGHT, BUT TO THE DISTANT OBSERVER, IT TENDS TO REINFORCE THE ARGUMENTS MADE HERE INCREASINGLY BY THE ISRAELIS TO US THAT SOMETHING OCCURRED TO HARDEN SADAT'S POSITION AFTER ISMAILIA WHICH IS NOT ADEQUATELY EXPLAINED

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BY ANY OF THE THEORIES WE HAVE THUS FAR ADDUCED. AFTER HIS MANY TALKS WITH THE ISRAELIS, SURELY SADAT MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE WEST BANK POSITION IN THIS PAPER IS NOT ONLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ISRAELIS TO TAKE AS A SERIOUS NEGOTIATING POSITION, BUT WOULD BE A FURTHER SIGNAL TO THE ISRAELIS THAT SADAT HAS LOST INTEREST FOR PRESUMABLY COMPLEX INTER-ARAB POLITICAL REASONS IN CARRYING HIS PEACE

INITIATIVE THROUGH TO CONCLUSION.

2. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN AMBASSADOR EILTS' VIEW ABOUT
THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE EGYPTIANS PUTTING FORWARD, EVEN
ONLY TO US, THIS TYPE OF PAPER AT THIS STAGE.

LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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